



**For Immediate Release**

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## **San Diego Homebuilder Brings Solar Electricity Into Mainstream**

**Golden, Colorado (October 29, 2003)** - Altair Energy, a developer and integrator of alternative energy solutions and KD Development, a leading San Diego homebuilder, are working together to bring solar electric photovoltaic systems to hundreds of residential customers in California.

Altair Energy has a contract with KD Development to design, supply, and install PV systems as a standard feature for their homes. KD Development constructs hundreds of homes (single-and multi-family) each year and is one of the top home building companies in San Diego. Altair Energy is currently KD's exclusive PV partner and expects to install over 400 kW on the builder's homes in the next year. Presently, Altair is managing two significant projects for KD.

The first project, known as The Trails Complex, involves installing a total of 210 kilowatts on seven different buildings; (six apartment buildings and a community clubhouse). Each of the three story apartment buildings will receive a total of 34 kilowatts of PV, with each of the 180 individual apartment units receiving its own 900-watt grid-tied PV system. Every apartment's PV system will be individually metered and supported by its own inverter. Another six kW will be installed atop the clubhouse building. Each of the solar electric systems installed at The Trails project will allow homeowners to rely on the sun for about 80% of their electric needs.

The second major project involves installing upwards to 100 grid-tied PV systems on modest sized new homes in the Pacific Beach area of San Diego. Each system will provide 75% to 80% of a home's total monthly electrical usage. To date, over fifty homes have received PV systems. Altair will be contracted to install upwards of another 100 systems on additional homes to be built in 2004.

"Solar electric systems are an environmental option that everyone should know about", commented Mike Turk, owner of KD Development. He added, "Homebuyers are typically offered choices on items such as flooring, countertops and air conditioning." "Now they have a choice in their electricity." Mr. Turk added, "With fast track permitting from the City for homes with PV, I can lower my construction costs while offering my customers the clean, green electricity they want. We're selling (and pre-selling in most cases), everything we can build."

Altair Energy, has teamed up with its project equipment supplier, BP Solar, and two of its local authorized service providers, Warmack Electric and Harbaugh Electric, to install the hundreds of PV systems. Altair is coordinating the project management including permitting and interconnection approvals with the City of San Diego and SDG&E, the local utility.

"KD Development's demonstration that environmental leadership can be good for business will encourage the broader construction community to take a serious look at solar electricity", commented Kirk Stokes, Altair Energy's Commercial Projects Manager. San Diego Mayor, Dick Murphy echoed a similar sentiment by noting "This city needs to enthusiastically embrace the pursuit of sustainable reliable energy, freeing us from the whims of the power market. KD Development is helping to make this possible".

Recent developments in design and manufacturing processes have made PV a more affordable electrical generation alternative for both homes and businesses. With current California rebates and federal cost sharing, PV systems range in price from \$10,000 to \$40,000 depending on the amount of power desired. To offset these costs, Altair Energy can help builders take advantage of rebates for as much as 50% of the installed cost through the California Energy Commission rebate programs.

*Headquartered in Golden, Colorado, Altair Energy is a member of the Alpha Group of companies. The Alpha Group represents a network of independent companies that share a common philosophy – Create world leading powering solutions for communication, commercial, industrial and alternative energy markets. With a primary focus on solar electric services, Altair Energy provides turnkey services to consumers, builders, government, businesses and utilities throughout the U.S.*  
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